GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:72
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
IMPORT OF COAL
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of coal has increased as a result of reduction in the import duty;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to fix any limit in regard to the import of coal;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) to (d): The total import of and the customs duty on coal in the last three years are as below:-

Year	Total import (Coking coal + non-coking coal) (In million tonnes)	Basic duty on coal Non-coking coal	Coking coal (ash content < 12%)
1997-1998	16.44	10%	5%
1998-1999	16.53	10%	5%
1999-2000	19.70	15%	5%

Coal is under Open General Licence(OGL). At present, there is no limit on import of coal. Consumers are importing coal, particularly coking coal and superior quality of non-coking coal, on account of inadequate availability of such coals from indigenous sources. Import of coal is also resorted to because the present level of customs duty and railway freight structure make such imports cost competitive per unit of calorific value on certain locations. However Government has increased the basic import duty on non-coking coal from 15% to 25% in the current year.